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Phlebiopsis punjabensis sp. nov. from India

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Abstract — A new corticioid species, *Phlebiopsis punjabensis,* is described from Punjab, India.

Key words — *Basidiomycota*, *Agaricomycetes*, *Phanerochaetaceae*, Ropar

During September 2012, Gurpreet and Avneet collected an unknown corticioid fungus growing on the trunk of *Psidium guajava* from the Ropar Boat Club, Ropar district, Punjab, India. After comparing macroscopic and microscopic characters (Rattan 1977, Eriksson et al. 1978 1981, Dhingra 1987, Bernicchia & Gorjon 2010, Priyanka et al. 2011, Mycobank 2015), we identified the specimen as representing a new species of *Phlebiopsis*, distinguished from *P. mussooriensis* Priyanka et al. and *P. peniophoroides* Gilb. & Adask. by brown-pigmented basal hyphae. A portion of the basidiocarp was also sent to Dr. Nils Hallenberg (Denmark), who confirmed the findings. The holotype specimen is conserved in the Herbarium, Botany Department, Punjabi University, Patiala, India (PUN).

Phlebiopsis punjabensis G. Kaur, Avneet P. Singh & Dhingra, **sp. nov.** Plates 1, 2

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Differs from *Phlebiopsis mussooriensis* by its basidiocarp not cracking on drying, from *P. peniophoroides* by its larger basidiospores, and from both these species by its brown-pigmented basal hyphae.

Type: India, Punjab, Ropar boat club, on trunk of *Psidium guajava* L. (*Myrtaceae*), 5 September 2012, Gurpreet & Avneet 7150 (PUN, **holotype**).

Etymology: The epithet refers to the state of collection, Punjab, India

Basidiocarp resupinate, adnate, effused, ≤75 µm thick in section, crustaceous, hymenial surface smooth, whitish when fresh, not changing much on drying; margins thinning, paler concolorous or indeterminate. Hyphal system monomitic. Generative hyphae simple-septate, densely packed and difficult to discern; basal hyphae ≤4.6 µm wide, agglutinated and making up a thin layer

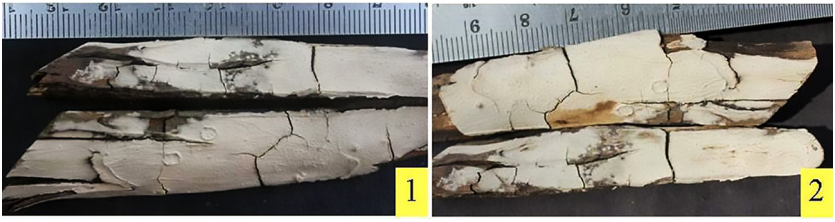

Plate 1. *Phlebiopsis punjabensis* (holotype, PUN). Basidiocarp showing hymenial surface. 1. fresh; 2. dry.

of hyphae parallel to the substrate, thin- to somewhat thick-walled; context and subhymenial hyphae ≤3.3 µm wide, vertically oriented, densely united and richly branched, thin-walled. Basal hyphae and lower part of context hyphae light, but distinctly brown-pigmented. Cystidia 20–36 × 7–9.8 µm, subfusiform, thick-walled, without basal clamp, encrusted with crystalline matter. Basidia 14–26 × 4–4.5 µm, clavate to subcylindrical, 4-sterigmate, without basal clamp; sterigmata ≤4.6 µm long. Basidiospores 5.3–8.5 × 2.5–4 µm, ellipsoid to subcylindrical, smooth, inamyloid, acyanophilous.

Remarks— *P. mussooriensis* differs in having a basidiocarp that cracks after drying, a grayish yellow hymenial surface, more narrow basal hyphae, and larger cystidia (Priyanka et al. 2011), whereas *P. peniophoroides* differs in having smaller basidiospores (Gilbertson & Adaskaveg 1993).

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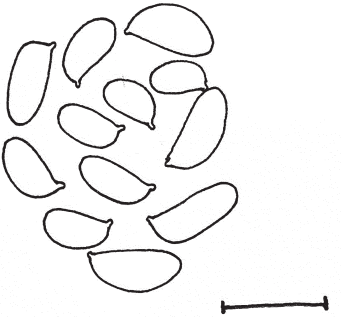

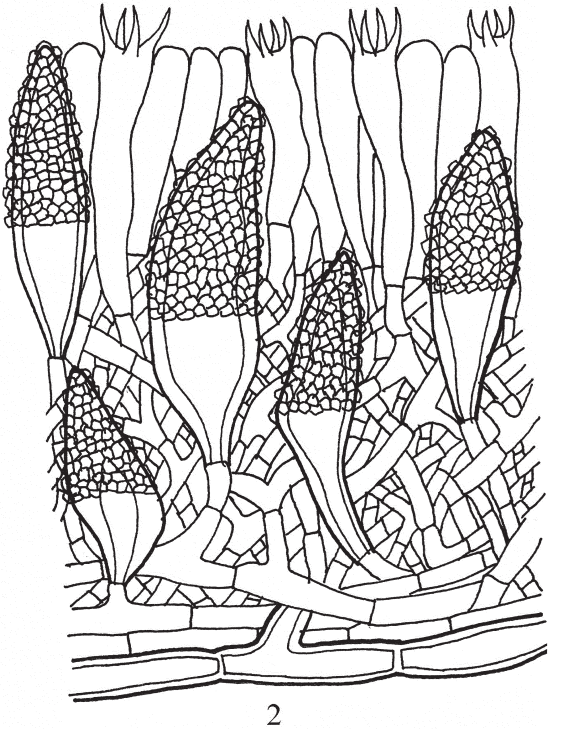

Plate 2. *Phlebiopsis punjabensis* (holotype, PUN).
1. basidiospores; 2. vertical section through basidiocarp.